

REMARKS

Claims 101-120 are pending in this Application. By this Reply, Applicants are amending claims 101 and 109-120. Applicants respectfully submit the amendments do not add new matter to the Application and are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, claims 101-120 are at issue.

The Examiner has rejected claims 101 and 112 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph because "Applicant claims a 'plasma controller' in claims 101 and 120 [sic], however applicant's specification is silent regarding any such controllers." (Office Action of August 15, 2007, pages 2-3). Applicants respectfully submit that a "plasma controller" is discussed in the specification (e.g., at page 11) and is shown in the Figures at reference number 16 (see e.g., Figure 2 of the Application which includes a label "Plasma Controller" next to the item identified by reference number 16). Notwithstanding this, Applicants have removed the term "plasma" with respect to the controller that communicates with the table display device. Applicants respectfully submit the Application fully enables one skilled in the art to understand and utilize the claimed controller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be removed.

The Examiner also rejected claim 101 because "received" should have been "receive." Applicants have amended claim 101 to make this change.

The Examiner has rejected claims 101, 102, 106, 107, 111, 112, 117 and 118 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a table game system having a dealer position and a plurality of player positions. The system also includes a display device which can be used for entertainment presentations or bonus game presentations. To enable the bonus game presentations, claim 1 now requires a "movably mounted" player interface device. One such device is shown as reference number 40 in the Figures with respect to a preferred embodiment of the invention (see e.g., Figures 2, 3 and 6; in Figure 6 the player interface is simply labeled as "Mobile Button Panel" without a reference number).

None of the references, either alone or combined, provide a system with a movably mounted player interface device in combination with the other limitations of the claim. In particular, the plunger 15 of Vancura is not movably mounted, thus requiring players at the ends of the table to move to the plunger to activate it, which is undesirable in a casino environment (Applicants do not concede that Vancura is prior art to the present application).

Accordingly, in view of the differences between the invention of claim 101 and the cited references, Applicants respectfully submit claim 101 is patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al.

Claims 102, 106, 107 and 111 depend on claim 101 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 102, 106, 107 and 111 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al.

Similar to claim 101, claim 112 has been amended herein to include a “movably mounted” player interface means. Accordingly, for the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit claim 112 is patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al.

Claims 117 and 118 depend on claim 112 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 117 and 118 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 103-105 and 114-116 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al., and further in view of Dettor. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 101 and 112 are patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. because none of the references combined disclose each of the limitations of the inventions claimed. The additional reference to Dettor does not cure the deficiencies of Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 101 and 112 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. and further in view of Dettor.

Claims 103-105 depend on claim 101 and include each of its limitations, and claims 114-116 depend on claim 112 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 103-105 and 114-116 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. and further in view of Dettor.

The Examiner has rejected claims 108-110, 119 and 120 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al., and further in view of Izumi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 101 and 112 are patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. because none of the references combined disclose each of the limitations of the inventions claimed. The additional reference to Izumi et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 101 and 112 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. and further in view of Izumi et al.

Claims 108-110 depend on claim 101 and include each of its limitations, and claims 119-120 depend on claim 112 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 108-110, 119 and 120 are also patentable over Vancura in view of Marnell, II and Knust et al. and further in view of Izumi et al.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 101-120. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding this Reply.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 14, 2007

By: 

Richard C. Himelhoch, Reg. No. 35,544
Schwartz Cooper Chartered
180 North LaSalle Street
Suite 2700
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 346-1300